



Supervised Agricultural Experience Fact Sheet

How SAE Supports Academic Standards

As defined by *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards* (1998), academic standards "specify what students should know and be able to do, what they might be asked to do to give evidence of standards and how well they must perform." This definition includes content, performance and proficiency standards – the same elements required for a successful SAE program. With regard to **content**, students apply knowledge and skills learning in classroom and laboratory instruction to SAE programs through hands-on experience in an area of interest. **Performance** is measured based on evidence that students provide including record books, class presentations, on-site demonstrations and other assessment activities. SAEs promote continual improvement and **proficiency** levels through FFA award programs. This motivates students to increase their skills and knowledge while broadening the scope of their program.

SAEs promote academic standards for agricultural education as well as core academic standards encompassing language arts, math, science and technology. For example, completing award and degree applications related to SAEs and participating in subsequent interviews applies both written and oral communication skills. Keeping records, problem solving and conducting research involves math, science and analytical skills. Nearly every SAE requires the use of new technology. When a student can make a connection between academic skills and their own life, they will *want* to learn and are more likely to *retain* what they have learned. An SAE is a practical and relevant application for achieving academic standards while preparing students for a future career.

In addition, SAE supports the objectives of workbased learning, a national education initiative. This includes firsthand exposure to how classroom knowledge and skills are used in the workplace, development of communication and problem-solving skills and insight into the day-to-day activities of various careers. SAE requirements closely resemble the guidelines for workbased learning, which include setting goals, creating a plan for learning in the workplace, developing broad and transferable skills, receiving adult guidance and support, implementing documentation and assessment and using quality control mechanisms.¹ From this perspective, SAEs support academic standards by applying academic standards in the workplace and preparing students to meet the changing demands of the agriculture industry and global economy.